

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 6661

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: REVELATION ON ARMY CORRUPTION

1. THE AUGUST 20 SUNDAY GLEANER CARRIED A LONG STATEMENT BY FORMER COL. LESLIE LLOYD, J.P., FULL OF ALLEGATIONS ABOUT CORRUPTION. LLOYD WAS THE SECOND RANKING MILITARY OFFICER IN THE JAMAICA DEFENSE FORCE WHEN HE WAS SACKED IN APRIL OF 1977, AND HAS MAINTAINED SILENCE, AT LEAST PUBLICLY, OVER THE AFFAIR SINCE. NOW, AT THE APPARENT INSTIGATION OF THE OPPOSITION JAMAICA LABOR PARTY, HE IS WEIGHING IN. IT IS ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE UNFOLDING JAMAICA PROTO-WATERGATE (SEE KINGSTON 4506 AND PREVIOUS), WHICH THE OPPOSITION HOPES WILL BLOW THE GOVERNMENT OUT OF POWER ON A TIDE OF PUBLIC INDIGNATION WHEN ALL IS REVEALED.

2. LLOYD CLAIMS THAT HE WAS RAILROADED OUT OF THE ARMY ON FALSE AND FLIMSY CHARGES, AND THAT THE REAL REASON WAS HIS DISCOVERY OF THE USE OF TORTURE BY THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE UNIT (MIU). HE SAID THAT IN LATE 1976 SOME SUBMACHINE GUNS WERE STOLEN AND THAT THE MIU PICKED UP 20 SUSPECTS WHO WERE NEVER CHARGED. LLOYD ASSERTS THAT
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WHEN HE SAW THE PRISONERS HE WAS "HORRIFIED" TO FIND THEY HAS BEEN "SAVAGELY BEATEN". HE ACCUSES HIS THEN SUPERIOR OFFICER, CHIEF-OF-STAFF MAJOR GENERAL GREEN, OF KNOWING ABOUT THE TORTURE BUT DOING NOTHING ABOUT IT. LLOYD THEN DETAILS HIS ATTEMPT TO GO OVER GREEN'S HEAD AND REPORT THE AFFAIR TO THE "POLITICAL DIRECTORATE", AND CONCLUDES THAT THIS WAS THE MAIN REASON FOR HIS DISMISSAL.

3. THE STATEMENT INCLUDES A NUMBER OF ACERBIC, BLUNT PERSONAL STATEMENTS ABOUT GREEN AND MIU COMMANDER CAPTAIN MARSH, AND THEIR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP. HE TALKS OF THE "ALMOST FEMININE SPITEFULNESS" OF GREEN AND DESCRIBES HOW, ON ONE OCCASION, GREEN BROKE DOWN IN TEARS BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER, A "MOST REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE". HE CONTINUES; "THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE AGONY IN THE JAMAICA DEFENCE FORCE IS THE FACT THAT THE CHAIN-OF-COMMAND HAS BEEN PERVERTED. OUR COUNTRY - NOW IT IS STAINED AND DISGRACED. IT HAS BEEN INFECTED WITH NARROW PERSONAL SPITES. THE RESULT IS AN ARMY IN WHICH A MERE CAPTAIN CAN DICTATE TO A COLONEL* IN WHICH A COMMANDER CAN BYPASS THE TIME-HONOURED CHAIN OF COMMAND TO REACH DOWN FOR INFORMATION - OR INTRIGUE - TO THE LOWEST RANKS."

4. COMMENT: SOME OF THIS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO LLOYD'S PERSONAL RIVALRY WITH AND DISLIKE OF GREEN. WE KNOW LLOYD AS SOMETHING OF AN OPPORTUNIST. HOWEVER, THE ASSERTIONS ABOUT MIU BRUTALITY AND THE UNWILLINGNESS OR INABILITY OF HIGH AUTHORITY TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT IS CREDIBLE. THE FACTS OF THE NOTORIOUS "GREEN BAY" AFFAIR (KINGSTON 5333 AND PREVIOUS) ARE WELL ENOUGH ESTABLISHED TO SHOW WHAT THE MIU IS CAPABLE OF DOING. THE OPPOSITION JAMAICA LABOR PARTY IS TREATING THIS MIU-GREEN BAY-COL. LLOYD AFFAIR AS A KIND OF WATERGATE WHICH WILL UNRAVEL

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SLOWLY AND GRADUALLY IMPLICATE TOP LEADERS IN THE GOVERNMENT. THE GREEN BAY AFFAIR HAS BEEN QUIESCENT FOR SOME WEEKS, AS IT IS NOW SUB JUDICE. MARSH AND ASSOCIATES ARE DUE TO GO BEFORE A COURT IN SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER, BUT MOST OBSERVERS EXPECT LONG LEGAL DELAYS BEFORE ANY ACTUAL TRIAL BEGINS. IN ANY EVENT, THE JLP SEES THE WHOLE MIU ISSUE AS ITS BEST CHANCE TO GLOW THE GOVERNMENT OUT OF OFFICE.

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